also observed that the undertaking given by the company to pay the difference between the prices charged and those fixed by the Government into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account subsists. Details of the difference are yet to be worked out.

Indigenous production of drugs under new drug policy

1517. SHRI BHUBANESWER KALITA:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not announced the list of inputs whose custom duty will be brought down than the duty of finished bulk drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has not announced the bulk drugs to be covered under tariff mechanism to boost indigenous production while proposing new measures;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not proposed any measures for mandatory production of essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Finance has recently exempted 36 drug intermediates which are exclusively used for production of bulk drugs from countervailing duty, thus reducing the effective rate of customs duty on these drug intermediates.

(b) The names of bulk drugs to be covered under proposed tariff mechanism can be decided only after finalisation of the list of price controlled drugs.

(c) and (d) Government's decisions are contained in the booklet entitled 'Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India' copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Drug Equalisation Fund Account

1518. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Equalisation Fund Account was set up to safeguard the interest of bulk drug producers and the consumers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to discontinue this account due to administrative difficulties; and

(c) what are the reasons for discontinuing the account and not removing the administrative difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Drug Price Equalisation Account was set up essentially to encourage domestic production of bulk drugs through a system of retention pricing. However, in actual practice its operation is giving rise to intractable administrative problems with anticipated accruals to the DPEA being thwarted by disputes and claims on the DPEA put forth promptly. It has therefore, been decided to discontinue the system of retention and pooled pricing.

Supersession of employees in Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project

1519. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Junior Operators (T|V) were appointed in the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd, in September, 1980 and have been superseded by their juniors when promotions to the next grades i.e. Grade IV (T|V) and Grade III (T|V) were made in 1982 and 1986 respectively;

(b) what are the reasons for their supersession; and

(c) whether on the representations made by the affected persons, Government have reviewed their cases to rectify the supersession; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The National Thermal Power Corporation have indicated that three Junior Operators (T|V) were appointed in September, 1980 in their Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station. At the time of consideration of their cases for placement to Grade IV (T|V), one of these employees could not be placed in Grade IV since he had not completed the required length of experience as on 1-1-1982; he was subsequently placed in Grade IV from 1-7-1983 on completion of the required length of experience. When promotions to Grade III were considered on 1-1-1986, this employee again did not fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria; his case for promotion would be considered by the Corporation on completion by him of the eligibility requirements.

Loss of industrial production due to erratic power supply

1520. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the figures of loss of industrial production in the country during the last three years, yearwise on account of erratic power supply in various parts of the country;

(b) what are the names of the States or areas which are affected most by power cut;

(c) whether any improvements are expected in this regard during the year 1987-88; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what efforts have been made to augment the production of electricity and to check the industrial production loss by supplying sufficient power to industries with the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Orissa had energy shortage of over 10 per cent while over-all shortage in the country was 9.4 per cent during 1986-87.

(c) and (d) To increase the availability of power, the generation is targeted to be increased by 9.3 per cent in 1987-88 over the actual generation in 1986-87 and an additional generating capacity of 4916MW is programmed for commissioning during 1987-88. The Plant Load Factor of thermal power stations is also proposed to be increased to 53.5 per cent as against 53.2 per cent achieved in 1986-87. The increase in production of Electricity is expected to improve the availability of power to all consumers including industrial sector. The actual supply of power to different categories of consumers is decided by the State authorities.

Commissioning of Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project

1521. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project has not yet been commissioned;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Soviet Union has offered to set up the said thermal plant on turnkey basis; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?